

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, UR, US

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF TRAVEL CONTROLS

REF: (A) USNATO 1210, (B) USNATO 1274, (C) MOSCOW 3315

1. US CONTROLS ON SOVIET TRAVEL WERE FIRST IMPOSED IN 1953 AFTER REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICAN TRAVEL IN THE SOVIET UNION WHICH HAD BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 1941. THE US CONTROLS CLOSELY MIRROR THE SOVIET REGULATIONS AND USG ADMINISTRATION OF CONTROLS IS RESPONSIVE TO SOVIET PERIODIC TIGHTENING AND RELAXATION. IN OTHER WORDS, US CONTROLS ARE STRICTER THAN THOSE IMPOSED BY MOST, IF NOT ALL, OTHER NATO COUNTRIES.

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2. IT HAS LONG BEEN USG POSITION THAT THESE CONTROLS SHOULD

BE REDUCED OR ABOLISHED, EITHER BY NEGOTIATION OR RECIPROCAL UNILATERAL ACTIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE INTENDS TO INTRODUCE CHANGES IN US REGULATIONS CORRESPONDING TO SOVIET MOVE TO BE EFFECTIVE APRIL 5. AT SAME TIME, DEPARTMENT PLANS TO APPROACH SOVIETS WITH PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER RECIPROCAL RELAXATION OF CONTROLS.

4. DEPARTMENT CAN UNDERSTAND THAT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT IMPOSED CONTROLS AS TIGHTLY ON SOVIET DIPLOMATS AS WE HAVE

MIGHT WISH TO WAIT TO SEE HOW THE SOVIET CHANGES MATERIALIZE BEFORE DETERMINING WHETHER RECIPROCAL ACTION IS JUSTIFIED. IN US CASE, HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT NECESSARY, SINCE WE RETAIN BOTH THE FLEXIBILITY AND DETERMINATION TO KEEP SOVIET OFFICIALS UNDER TRAVEL CONTROLS IDENTICAL TO THOSE TO WHICH WE ARE SUBJECT IN MOSCOW. FOR EXAMPLE, WE RECIPROCATATE ON A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS FOR EVERY TRAVEL REFUSAL IN THE USSR AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. IF, IN PRACTICE, THE RELAXATION PROMISED IN THE SOVIET NOTE DOES NOT MATERIALIZE, OURS WILL BE WITHHELD IN PRACTICE TO THE SAME DEGREE.

5. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS INSUFFICIENT TIME REMAINS TO OBTAIN SOVIET RESPONSE TO ANY RELAXATION PROPOSAL WHICH MIGHT BE MADE BEFORE RECIPROCAL RELAXATION APPLIED APRIL 5 AS SUGGESTED REF C.

6. US NATO MAY DRAW ON REF C AND THIS MESSAGE IN DISCUSSIONS AS REQUIRED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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